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BULLETIN

OF THE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Entered as second class matter July 15, 1907, at the Post Office at Boston, Mass., under the Act of July 16, 1894

Vol. 2, No. 3

BOSTON, MASS.

MAY, 1908

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A. L. A. PUBLISHING BOARD

THE MINNETONKA CONFERENCE

FROM every point of view the Minnetonka conference promises to be a large and memorable meeting.

Local arrangements have been definitely rounded into shape; the local committee is effectively organized; the detailed schedule of rates and accommodations printed on another page shows a variety and a range of prices which should meet all tastes and purses; the largest and best hotels on beautiful Lake Minnetonka are at the disposal of the Association and dozens of convenient cottages have been placed in the hands of the rooming committee to increase the comfort of the visiting librarians. The facilities for meetings are ample and coolness and quiet are assured. The conference is promised a day in the Twin cities as guests of the local libraries and commercial organizations, when the State Capitol, the State University, the Public libraries and other points of interest will be visited and dinner will be served in St Paul.

At least two important matters of association business, the revision of the constitution and the location of the executive offices will claim the consideration of the Council and later of the general association. A revision committee of ex-presidents under the chairmanship of Herbert

Putnam has prepared during the winter and will present to the annual conference a new instrument which will define and make more explicit the personnel and functions of the officers and various boards and committees which now operate under a constitution nearly ten years old and adopted when the association numbered less than half its present membership and conducted but a small fraction of its present cooperative, publishing and business activities.

Closely allied to this growth, and resulting directly from it, is the important question of the location of the executive offices of the Association now in Boston. It seems clear that thus situated they cannot hope to be more than a name to the majority of the members of the A. L. A. and proposals will be presented at Minnetonka offering ample and attractive facilities for Headquarters in other cities nearer the geographical and library centers of the country. These are matters of great moment which can scarcely be rightly determined from personal or even sectional considerations but which should have the most careful and unprejudiced attention from every member of the Association.

The program will be unusually full and

varied. The general sessions will be limited to four, but these are planned with an eye to interesting topics and brisk, free discussion. Only the necessary business will be brought forward in the general sessions and nearly all committee reports will be relegated to the printed Proceedings. The printing of the Annual report of the Treasurer and Trustees of the Endowment fund in the present number of the Bulletin is part of a policy to present in print before the annual meeting the purely formal records of the business of the Association and thus relieve the program from their presentation in extenso at regular sessions. Access to shelves will form the principal topic at one General session. Library training at another and a carefully planned discussion of the important books of the past year at a third will mark a return to a practice which afforded several interesting sessions a number of years ago.

A meeting, and often more than one, will be held by each of the four sections, three affiliated societies, three state associations (North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin), six associations of library school alumni with a possible round table in charge of the Committee on Public documents which will continue the discussion begun last year at Asheville. The Travel committee has made the usual careful arrangements for an attractive post conference trip which is announced in detail elsewhere.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Miss Gratia Countryman, Public Library, Minneapolis, Minn. will assign all rooms for the Conference and applications should be made to her as soon as possible.

Frederick W. Faxon, 83 Francis St. Fenway, Boston, will answer questions concerning travel from all eastern points, and should receive remittances to cover Pullman berth with eastern party before June 10. Also send him remittance of \$5.00 before June 1 if stateroom berth on Lake trip is desired.

Charles H. Brown, The John Crerar Library, Chicago, will answer questions regarding travel from all central United States points, and persons, except those with eastern party, desiring Pullman berths from Chicago to Minneapolis, should send him the required amount before June 10.

H. W. Wilson, Minneapolis, will answer questions regarding, and book members for, the Leech Lake post-conference trip.

RAILROAD RATES

Pacific coast. Summer excursion rates for season of 1908 are, from California points to Minneapolis and return via another route, \$73.50, on sale June 15 and 16; from Washington and Oregon points to Minneapolis and return via another route, \$60, on sale June 19 and 20. These tickets are good returning for 90 days from sale and may be bought also on certain earlier dates than those named above. Liberal stop-over privileges are allowed.

East, South and Central U. S. The usual convention rate cannot be had this year, but the regular fare, especially in the middle west, is almost the same as our former fare-and-one-third concession. As only the going ticket needs to be bought on starting, there are none of the troublesome restrictions as to route and time of return trip.

The regular summer tourist round-trip ticket to Tonka Bay on sale daily from June 1st, and good until October 31st, offers a saving. This saving is offset, however, by party tickets (where ten or more travel together one way) so that all who wish to join any of the eastern parties (Washington, New York, Boston) should arrange with Mr Faxon to use a party ticket.

Regular rates by shortest and best routes from the principal cities one way to Minneapolis are given below, also sleeping car berth rate one way. The excess fare from New York and Philadelphia is practically all offset by the party rate granted us.